

Appl. No. 10/722,157

Attorney Docket No. 81863.0024

Amdt. Dated January 22, 2007

Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Final Office Action of August 22, 2006 and Advisory Action of December 21, 2006

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REMARKS:

Claims 6-12 and 31 are canceled without prejudice. Claim 13 is amended. Claim 13 is pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 6-11 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 5,504,388). This rejection is moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 5,504,388). This rejection is moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Office objected to claim 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that these claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In response, Applicant rewrote claim 13 in the manner suggested by the Office. Withdrawal of this objection and allowance of claim 13 is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 22, 2007

By: 

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